

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action dated July 21, 2008 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-10 were pending in the final Office Action with claim 1 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claims 2-10 have been amended and claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 11-17 have been added.

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,833,661 to Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,323,363 to Hysek et al. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kim in view of Hysek and U.S. Patent No. 5,432,759 to Vaucher. Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

While page 2 of the final Office Action indicates that claims 1-9 have been rejected based on Kim and Hysek, page 5 of the Office Action indicates that claims 7 and 8 are merely objected too and include patentable subject matter. Since the final Office Action fails to articulate any basis for rejection related to claims 7 and 8, Applicant presumes that claims 7 and 8 do indeed include patentable subject matter.

Despite that fact that Applicant does not agree with the rejection of claims 1-6 and 9-10, in an effort to advance prosecution of the present application, claims 7 and 8 have been amended herein to be in independent form and to include the subject matter of claim 1 on which they previously depended. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-4 and 6 have been amended to depend from newly independent claim 7 and to correct minor formal matters. Claims 5 and 9-10 have similarly been amended to correct minor formal matters. Further, new claims 11-17 have been added and depend on newly independent claim 8, either directly or indirectly. The subject matter of new claims 11-17 corresponds to that of claims 2-6 and 9-10, and thus, no new matter is being added.

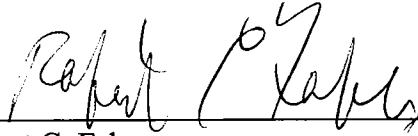
Since claims 7 and 8 have been amended to be in independent form as suggested by the Examiner, it is believed that claims 7 and 8, as amended herein, are patentable over the cited art. The remaining claims all depend on either claim 7 or claim 8, and thus, are also believed to be patentable over the cited art.

In light of the remarks and amendments made herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-17 are patentable over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert C. Faber', written over a horizontal line.

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